

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAJOR ALEXANDER ARCDIACONO UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Alexander Arcidiacono of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Alexander Arcidiacono epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Alexander Arcidiacono of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MYRTLE BRAXTON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Myrtle Braxton.

Throughout her life, Myrtle has served her community in Richmond and has been a true champion for Contra Costa seniors and families. She began her career in public service at the age of 17, working at the Social Security Administration's (SSA) San Francisco office. She went on to work out of the SSA's Rich-

mond office, serving with the SSA for a total of 35 years prior to her retirement in 1981.

After retiring, Myrtle continued to be engaged and active with a number of community organizations, including the League of Women Voters, California Alliance for Retired Americans, the Richmond Commission on Aging, and more. She is also a founder of the City of Richmond's Crime Prevention Program, promoting neighborhood safety and advocating for improved relations between community members and local law enforcement. Additionally, Myrtle has worked hard to preserve open and recreational spaces in our community through her work with the California Association of Parks and Recreation for Commissioners and Board Members and with the National Citizen Branch for the Recreation Park Association. Myrtle has worked tirelessly to improve her community and to serve Richmond residents. Her passion and commitment to activism are admired by many.

Myrtle's advocacy and leadership have been instrumental in Richmond and West County. Please join me in recognizing and thanking Myrtle Braxton for her many years of dedicated service.

HONORING AIRMAN JEREMY EDA UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Airman Jeremy Eda of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

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On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congres-

sional District, I would like to congratulate Airman Jeremy Eda of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES OF WNY HEROES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor an organization, WNY Heroes, whose programs continue to be a lifeline for our local military veterans. Founded in 2007, its mission of preventing homelessness quickly expanded to a wholesale outreach organization that has aided countless veterans. They continue to work tirelessly in support of veterans, and this week we celebrate the grand opening of their new location in downtown Buffalo.

At the outset, WNY Heroes was designed to assist Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, but the need grew as veterans of all eras came in search of help. They soon broadened their reach to all that served our nation. WNY Heroes has become an instrumental voice in our community, and their effort toward veterans and their families by providing immediate financial assistance is nothing short of remarkable. More than ever, the demand for their services is growing.

Their program, "Heroes' Bridge," offers veterans with financial assistance. Through medical referral, "Pawstive for Heroes" has paid for over 140 veterans to be paired with a trained service dog. "Operation Backpack" raises money every year to buy new school supplies for the children of veterans. 1,200 veterans from four local counties are sufficiently fed because of their program, "Feed a Veteran." They connect veterans with appropriate resources and services through the Veterans Health Administration every day.

WNY Heroes fills a void in the treatment of our veterans—one that should not exist. Sacrifice abroad is often met with hardship at home. Founder, Chris Kreiger, and the WNY Heroes team knows this firsthand, so they act to fix it. This organization's success serves as a much-needed inspiration, and each of the aforementioned programs is critical in the lives of our local heroes. Their new location in Buffalo should help them to reach more veterans in a more effective manner. On behalf of everyone in the Western New York community, I would like to thank and congratulate WNY Heroes for the services they have provided to our bravest men and women.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.